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This shows that more than two thirds of those present at the Washington meeting avoided the larger hotels. But what is most noticeable is that there were only about two fifths as many registered at headquarters as at another hotel. The meetings of the council were not held there, and not more than half a dozen members of the council made it their stopping place. More than one person who had gone to headquarters in the hope of meeting friends soon went elsewhere. The announcement in the preliminary circular that the Arlington would be headquarters proved to be unfortunate. At Pittsburgh last summer local conditions caused 165 out of the 431 persons present, or about 38 per cent., to meet the high charges imposed at headquarters.

This statement of facts must not be interpreted as an implied criticism upon the management of the local committee at Washington. The permanent secretary has been so systematic, energetic and courteous, that it would be hard to find any reasonable ground for criticism. All that is intended is to call attention to the fact that, under the conditions that appear now to exist, the custom of specifying any place as headquarters seems one 'more honored in the breach than the observance.'

W. LE CONTE STEVENS.

LEXINGTON, VA.,
January 14, 1903.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issue of March 13 W. J. Beal makes a plea for the publication in full of all the papers read at the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the *Proceedings* of the Association. I must enter a protest against this. I should be entirely unwilling to have my recent paper on 'Abelian Functions and their Relation to the Specific Gravity of Sirius' buried in the *Proceedings*, where it would never meet the gaze of most of my astro-mathematical friends. Nor do I care to wade through dozens of pages about the 'Stereo-isomerism of Azonium Derivatives,' and the 'Ecology of the Dominican Thel-

phoraceæ' in order to find a few pages of interest to me on skew helicoids.

No, the *Proceedings* should contain merely the titles of the papers read, with a reference to where the original is to be published; a brief abstract of every paper should appear in SCIENCE; but the papers in full should be published only in the special journals where they belong and where they will meet the eyes of those, and those alone, who are particularly interested in them. Of course there are some papers read in the sections which are of more than technical interest. For such the columns of SCIENCE are the fitting place, for here they will reach the eye of every member of the association.

X.

SHORTER ARTICLES.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS OF THE JAPANESE SHARK, MITSUKURINA.

IN a recent number of the *Japan Daily Advertiser* (Yokohama, March 4, 1903, page 5) there is a notice, and it deserves record in SCIENCE, of the capture of additional specimens of the deep water shark, *Mitsukurina*.

Students of fishes will recall that in 1898 Dean Mitsukuri, on the occasion of his visit to Washington as a delegate to the International Fur Seal Conference, brought with him a shark which caused considerable comment. This specimen had been taken in deep water off the Bay of Tokyo; then it came into the hands of Mr. Alan Owston, a resident naturalist of Yokohama, and by him it had been presented to the Imperial University of Tokyo. A detailed account of this new shark soon appeared in the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, Ser. 3 Zoology, Vol I., pp. 199-204, 1898, and it was here described by President Jordan as *Mitsukurina owstoni*, and regarded as the type of a distinct family of lamoid sharks. The most prominent features of the new form were the elongated and spatulate snout, the great extent of the ventral lobe of the tail and a general looseness of make-up, notably in its protractile and expansible jaws. The form was evidently from deep water, and structurally it seemed to be a close ally of *Odontaspis*, so close, indeed, that we are still in doubt whether